The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Cultural Policy has been developed to assist the organisation to achieve its vision statement:

Empowering our people, in our decision, in our culture, for our future

TSRA Development Plan 2009-2013

To realise this vision, the TSRA Cultural Policy aims to promote understanding of the cultures of Torres Strait Islanders, Kaurareg people and Aboriginal people in the Torres Strait region including Bamaga and Seisia on the Northern Peninsular Area (NPA) and provide a guide for TSRA staff. The policy has been developed within a cultural policy framework, strengthened with guiding principles and will be used in conjunction with TSRA Cultural Policy Procedures and TSRA Cultural Protocols Guide for TSRA Staff.

Purpose

The purpose of the TSRA Cultural Policy is to:

• Improve understanding of Torres Strait Islanders, Kaurareg people and Aboriginal people in the Torres Strait region and their culture, lifestyle, aspirations and perspectives;
• Improve TSRA relationships and partnerships with all the communities in the Torres Strait region to develop new and consistent standards in remote area service delivery as a step towards “Closing the Gap” of Indigenous Disadvantage and requirements of the National Integrated Service Strategy; and
• Provide a new benchmark/model for community engagement in the Torres Strait region.

Related Documents This document should be referenced in conjunction with the TSRA Cultural Policy Procedures and TSRA Cultural Protocols Guide for TSRA Staff.
The TSRA Cultural Policy Framework is based on a holistic approach incorporating six elements: People, Places, Practices, Protocols, Partnerships and Promotion. The core of the circle is ‘Ailan’ which represents the communities where TSRA provides services. The term ‘Ailan’ is used to refer to the physical island communities and is inclusive of Kaurareg people who live in these island communities and the Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people who reside in the communities of Sesia and Bamaga on the NPA.

This framework uses generic and common terms for a consistent method of communication between the TSRA and Torres Strait Islanders, Kaurareg people and Aboriginal people in the Torres Strait region. There will always be different perspectives and requirements of both sides however the framework will assist to develop practical understanding and management of these relationships.
The **TSRA** Vision

Ngalpun yangu kaaba woeydhay, a ngalpun muruygaw danalagan mabaygal kunakan palayk, bathayngaka  
*(KALA LAGAW YA)*

Buaigiz kelar obaiswerare, merbi mir apuge mena obakedi, muige merbi areribi tonarge, ko merbi keub kerkerem  
*(MERIAM MIR)*

Ngalpan moebaygal thoepoeriwoeyamoeyn, ngalpan ya kuduthoeraynu, ngalpan igililmaypa, sepa setha wara goeygil sey boey wagel  
*(KALA KAWAW YA)*

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